

Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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October 9, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204 Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply to Comments by Buckeye Hills Regional Council Regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Docket Nos. 19-126 and 10-90

Madam Secretary:

In reply to comments submitted by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council on September 19, 2019, Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. supports the modifications to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund proposed in those comments.

Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a nonprofit electric distribution cooperative that provides service to approximately 10,500 members in rural southeastern Ohio. The majority of these members are residential and small commercial businesses that reside in areas that do not have access to adequate broadband services. Many of our members have expressed concern for the lack of broadband availability and the consequent lost economic growth opportunities and population decline.

We feel that the modifications to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund proposed by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council will have a positive impact to these funds successfully being used to benefit underserved areas of southeastern Ohio badly in need of broadband.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Triplett, P.E. General Manager / CEO